



Connecticut Parks Association, Inc.

www.ctparks.org

March 16, 2012

To the Members of the Environment Committee:

The Connecticut Parks Association is opposed to House Bill #5121

As the President of the CT Park Association, I would like to tell you that the Association has been active since 1958. Our purpose is to promote Education, development, maintenance and preservation of our natural resources throughout the state.

Our organization is made up of over 160 park professionals throughout the state. As the demands of the community to have the best and safest fields has risen over the years, many towns have assigned their park departments to the maintenance of school grounds, Towns have turned to their park departments because they have the highest caliber of staff training for proper turf management.

The CT parks association is a professional organization which sponsors and co-sponsors numerous work shops throughout the year. The workshops provide updated information on turf research and science to provide our members with the most up to date scientific facts, as well as Deep.

We request that you contact our professor and educators at UConn and continue to provide factual information. UConn is one of the Top turf schools in the country, along with council Umass, Rutgers, Michigan state, Ohio State and many others

The Environmental Protection Agency rigorously reviews scientific and health data for all pesticide products before they are made available for use.

The DEEP pesticide unit mission statement management program is to prevent adverse human health or environmental effects from the misuse of pesticides.

Therefore, we further believe that the application of pesticides is a function of DEEP and should be left in the total supervision of this state agency.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is the integration of knowledge and cultural-management systems designed to improve the long-term health of turf-grass (and other crops) through the suppression of problem pests. The overriding goal of IPM is to minimize the impact on humans, the environment and non-target organisms.

Common IPM techniques include the following:

1. Use of unbiased information
2. Quality monitoring
3. Anticipation of pest-population increases
4. Use of naturally occurring biological controls (I.E., use of pest-resistant plant species)
5. Adoption of cultural-management practices
6. Carefully selected applications of pesticides after monitoring and establishing thresholds have been met.

An IPM program protects the financial investment Towns have made in school grounds and athletic fields. IPM utilities trained, regulated and licensed professionals

We, as a professional organization, rely on science and the research plan at universities throughout the country and our state to provide us with the scientific facts, as well as the DEEP.

We call for the environment committee to seek funding for UConn and DEEP to research the facts and truly discover the scientific facts before any action is taken.

The CT Park Association therefore does not support Bill 5121

Sincerely,

Richard J. Calarco

President Ct Park Association
Richard J. Calarco CSFM, CPRA, AOLCP
Hebron Parks and Recreation Director
860-530-1281